

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

enabling the user to specify individual character traits ~~for~~ desired in a virtual host, wherein the specified character traits are used to select a consistent personality for the virtual host;

storing the specified character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and

generating ~~[[a]]~~ the virtual host with ~~[[a]]~~ the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user profile further includes user interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the user interaction history information.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

Claims 19-55. (Canceled)

Claim 56. (New) A method of providing a voice interface comprising:  
specifying individual character traits desired in a virtual host, wherein the  
specified character traits are used to select a consistent personality for the virtual host;  
storing the specified character traits in a profile having preference information;  
and  
generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the  
specified character traits.

Claim 57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits  
comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 58. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits  
comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 59. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits  
comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

Claim 60. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits  
comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

Claim 61. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits  
comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

Claim 62. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

Claim 63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

Claim 64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

Claim 65. (New) A system for providing a voice interface, the system comprising:

- a memory;

- logic to specify individual character traits desired in a virtual host, wherein the specified character traits are used to select a consistent personality for the virtual host;

- logic to store the specified character traits in a profile having preference information within the memory;

- logic to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits; and

- a processor operable to process logic.

Claim 66. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 67. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 68. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

Claim 69. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

Claim 70. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

Claim 71. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

Claim 72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the system further comprising:

logic to adjust the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

Claim 73. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

Claim 74. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling a processor to provide a voice interface, the computer program logic comprising:

specifying means for enabling a processor to specify individual character traits desired in a virtual host, wherein the specified character traits are used to select a consistent personality for the virtual host;

storing means for enabling a processor to store the specified character traits in a profile having preference information; and

generating means for enabling a processor to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits.

Claim 75. (New) The computer program logic of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 76. (New) The computer program logic of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 77. (New) The computer program logic of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

Claim 78. (New) The computer program logic of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

Claim 79. (New) The computer program logic of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

Claim 80. (New) The computer program logic of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

Claim 81. (New) The computer program logic of claim 80, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the computer program logic further comprising:

adjusting means for enabling a processor to adjust the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

Claim 82. (New) The computer program logic of claim 81, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.